GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2264
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2004
DEFECTIVE WATER METERS
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while the common man in the city is facing the problem of inflated water bills, the VIPs & VVIPs are being charged on provisional basis as the water meters installed at their residences are defective;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of water meters found to defective or non-functioning during the survey conducted in this regard;

(c) the average Monthly loss of revenue suffered as a result thereof;

(d) the reasons for delay in the replacement of the defective water meters; and

(e) the time by which the new water meters are likely to be installed?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(e): The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has reported that water bills are sent to the consumers, including VIPs and VVIPs, on the basis of recorded meter readings. No formal survey has been undertaken by DJB in respect of defective water meters. However, if the meters are found defective, action is taken to replace the same as early as possible and water bills are sent on the basis of average consumption of the consumer . There is no loss of revenue as a result of charging the bills on average basis.

In the area under New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) the water meters are installed by NDMC at the consumer`s end. NDMC has reported that whenever defect in the meter is noticed by the meter reader or complaints are received from the consumer, water meters are replaced on priority basis. During the period, the water meter is defective, provisional water bill is sent on the basis of previous year`s consumption. Subsequently final assessment of the consumption during the defective period of water meter is done on the basis of average of previous year`s consumption and subsequent year`s consumption so that no excess consumption is charged. NDMC has further informed that b02 number of water meters were found defective during billing cycle of November, 2004. NDMC is taking steps to procure good quality meters so that they do not become defective.